

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25 D. C.

June 9, 1954

ATTACHMENT TO STATUS REPORT

Summary of Developments in Japan Arising from  
Bikini Incident

NSC REVIEW  
COMPLETED,  
6/26/2003

1. Condition of 23 Fishermen. The United States has no authoritative information indicating that the 23 fishermen from the Fukuryu Maru either are getting better or getting worse. Our experts in Japan still have no access to the fishermen. Dr. Tsuzuki, the Japanese scientist, who recently visited the United States, said he heard from Japan that the fishermen are getting better.
2. With the approval of the Secretary, Ambassador Allison plans to discuss the subject of compensation with key congressional figures to explain the situation in Japan and to obtain their understanding and approval of a settlement that might go as high as 1 million dollars. The Japanese have informally put in a claim for about 7 million dollars but only about \$800,000 of this is for direct damage. The Ambassador feels the Japanese would be willing to settle largely on the basis of direct damage.
3. Visit of United States Scientists to Japan. The AEC late in May sent Dr. Boss and Dr. Donaldson to Japan to consult with Japanese scientists and possibly to participate in a Japanese research expedition to the Marshall Islands. To date these two scientists have made little progress with their Japanese counterparts and may well return to the United States in several weeks if the Japanese scientists show no definite inclination to participate in scientific discussions. Our scientists have broached the idea of a conference on the effects of the recent tests on marine life but the Japanese have not been particularly receptive to this idea.
4. Japanese Research Trip. The Japanese research ship SHUNKOTSU MARU is now operating in the Marshall area. The United States is providing food and water at Wake Island. There have been no reports of difficulty experienced by the Japanese. No American scientists are participating.
5. Dr. Tsuzuki. Dr. M. Tsuzuki is now concluding a three week visit to the United States at the invitation of State and AEC. He has inspected a number of AEC facilities throughout the country. Despite reports that

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Dr. Tsuzuki was unfriendly during the period in March when the 23 fishermen were being treated in Japan, he has appeared friendly and interested in the United States. Ambassador Iguchi told Ambassador Allison on June 7 he thought Tsuzuki's visit would be very helpful.

6. Japanese Press. Sensational reports about the harmful radioaction continue to fill the Japanese press. Although the wave of anti-American feeling caused by the Bikini incident appears to have died down, the Japanese still display extreme sensitivity and ignorance about the effects of radioactivity. For example, there are frequent Tokyo reports that it is dangerous to walk in the rain because of radioactivity.

7. Embassy assessment. Embassy Tokyo transmitted in telegram 2851, May 20, 1954 TOP SECRET, a survey of background and certain conclusions in respect to U.S. policies. This telegram was distributed to OCB member agencies.

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